

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00757 051211Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7589

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL
ACTIVITIES

FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 233134

1. I WISH TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE ACTION TAKEN BY THIS EMBASSY TO SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN ESTABLISHING LIAISON WITH THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING THE POLICE FORCE WHICH FALLS UNDER THIS MINISTRY, ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. THERE IS CLOSE BILATERAL COOPERATION ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF DRUG PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING.

2. WE STARTED OFF THIS FISCAL YEAR WITH A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TWO-WEEK (JULY 22 THROUGH AUGUST 2) NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COURSE GIVEN BY THE NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION. THERE WERE ABOUT 45 STUDENTS FROM THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE, CUSTOMS, THE COAST GUARD, AND HEALTH SERVICES. THERE WERE ALSO SOME DELEGATES FROM NEIGHBORING ISLANDS.

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PAGE 02 PORT O 00757 051211Z

3. AT THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL POLICE, WASHINGTON PRO-

VIDED BROCHURES AND OTHER HANDOUTS ON DRUG ABUSE WHICH WERE USED BY THE POLICE DURING THEIR CRIME PREVENTION WEEK OF OCTOBER 13 TO 27. THE CARACAS REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEA HAS ALSO BEEN HELPFUL IN PROVIDING THE POLICE AND MINISTRY OFFICIALS WITH LISTS OF FILMS ON DRUG SUBJECTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEA. THEY HAVE ALSO PROVIDED SAMPLES OF PAMPHLETS AND POSTERS WHICH MIGHT BE USED IN DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS IN TRINIDAD.

4. ON NOVEMBER 19, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICE VISITED PORT OF SPAIN AND SPOKE WITH POLICE, MINISTRY AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT THIS WAS A VERY USEFUL TRIP AND WISH THAT THIS COULD BE DONE ON A MORE REGULAR BASIS.

5. THE DEA HAS PROVIDED LEADS TO THE EMBASSY WHICH IN TURN HAS PASSED THEM ON TO THE POLICE FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION. ONE OF THESE OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CARNIVAL. THE POLICE FOLLOWED UP ON THE LEAD OF A U.S. YACHT WHICH WAS DOCKED AT THE PORT IN PORT OF SPAIN AND WHICH HAD A HISTORY OF PARTICIPATION IN ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS OF HASHISH. EVEN THOUGH NO DRUGS WERE FOUND ON BOARD, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE AND INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING THROUGH ANY LEADS WHICH MIGHT BE PASSED THEM IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD.

6. WE HAD OUR FIRST U.S. CITIZEN ARRESTED, CHARGED, SENTENCED AND NAILED ON A NARCOTICS CHARGE IN NOVEMBER 1974. THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT WAS FOR POSSESSION OF COCAINE. THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS SINCE BEEN RELEASED AND DEPORTED. HOWEVER, SINCE THEN THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OTHER CASES OF AMERICANS HAVING BEEN PICKED FOR FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA. THESE HAVE PLEADED GUILTY AND HAVE BEEN DEPORTED. AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO AMERICANS IN JAIL IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON DRUG CHARGES.

7. THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRAINING IN NARCOTICS MATTERS. THERE IS ONE POLICE SERGEANT NOW IN THE U.S. WHERE HE WILL BE ENTERED IN A DEA-FUNDED COURSE TO BE HELD
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PORT O 00757 051211Z

IN WASHINGTON FROM APRIL 14 TO JUNE 17.

8. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS IN TRINIDAD AND IN IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NARCOTICS SQUAD OF THE POLICE FORCE. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS TO BE NO HARD DRUG PROBLEM IN TRINIDAD AT PRESENT, WE CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE NARCOTICS QUESTION IN CASE THIS COUNTRY SHOULD

AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE BECOME A TRANSIT CENTER FOR
DRUGS DESTINED TO THE U.S. FORTUNATELY, THAT IS NOT NOW
THE CASE, AND I BELIEVE THAT OUR PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT
FOR THE DRUG PROGRAM IS JUST RIGHT.

MILLER

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